

My name is Gerry Corkin and I have served 27 years on the Marquette County Board and 22 years as chairman.

I am here to talk about the important impact that bills 6007 – 6012 will have on tax revenues in Marquette County.

I submitted affidavits in two court cases involving Kennecott Minerals on the importance of the local property tax revenues. \$500,000 will be needed by 2014 to support the airport at K.I. Sawyer. The Republic-Michigamme Schools will close by 2014 without these property tax revenues. The Marquette County Road Commission has annual road needs of 150 million that they try to meet with an 11 million dollar budget. We are currently paying 1 million plus dollars for unfunded mandated from the State of Michigan in Marquette County. These examples illustrate the importance of local property tax dollars (severance tax) being available for local services in Marquette County, Marquette County Schools and Marquette County Townships.

Following speakers will address specifically why these bills don't hold Marquette County, Schools and Townships financially harmless. They will also state multiple reasons why these bills are badly constructed.

These Bills seem to encourage under Capitalized mining Companies to locate in Upper Michigan. We want companies with the financial capability to follow strictly P.A. 632. We have a beautiful peninsula and wish to keep it that way.

The sponsor of these bills will not be returning to Lansing after January 1. The voters in the U.P. send a message of their thoughts on the severance tax bills as currently written.